



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 1477 HD2 SD2 CD1

On July 10, 2007, House Bill No. 1477, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Rural Primary Health Care Training" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

House Bill 1477 appropriates \$4 million in the biennium for the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine to provide rural primary health care services. Wahiawa General Hospital has determined that it can no longer support a medical residency program at its facility.

While the goal of maintaining such a program is laudable, it appears that a residency program operated by the John A. Burns School of Medicine would need to be accredited to become eligible for federal matching funds from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The accreditation process usually takes two to three years. CMS payments would go to the participating hospitals and cover the salaries of the doctors-in-residence. They would not cover the costs the medical school might incur in overseeing this type of residency program.

The University did not submit an Executive Budget request for this program. With regard to this bill, the University stated, "while this is a worthwhile cause, the John A. Burns School of Medicine has much larger commitments and priorities in fulfilling its mission to train physicians to serve Hawaii and conduct research to improve the lives of our people."

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Page 2

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 1477 to become law as Act 277 effective July 10, 2007 without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. Lingle", with a stylized, cursive script.

LINDA LINGLE